



## Good Shepherd Catholic Church

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Dear Parishioners,

March 18, 2020

Late afternoon on March 17, Bishop Soto issued a suspension of the public celebration of Mass for the Diocese of Sacramento. This is understandably disappointing, however; it is considered to be necessary as we continue to face the highly infectious COVID-19.

The clergy and staff of Good Shepherd Catholic Church remain committed to serving you as best as we are able. Fr. Ed and I will offer Mass together privately every day, praying for our community of faith and lifting your needs and intentions to the Lord. The parish office will remain open and the church will remain unlocked throughout the day. We encourage parishioners to come in and pray as we face this challenging time. In addition, we will be offering a list of resources to assist you with your private prayer and devotions.

Undoubtedly, our Lenten journeys this year will be quite different than what we have previously experienced. The social distancing necessary to prevent the spread of the virus also means that much, and possibly all, of our Lent will be a private experience. Even so, I invite you to consider how God is inviting us each to personally walk with him through this penitential season.

It may be helpful to remember that the church has overcome a similar crisis in the past. In 1918, with the Spanish Flu epidemic, schools, churches and places of social gathering were also closed. Even though the world faced a very serious epidemic, life returned to normal by 1919.

This is a challenging time for us, but this is all the more reason for us to turn to God with our prayers. We pray for our family and friends, for our local and national leaders, for health professionals and for all affected by the virus. We trust that as we walk with the Lord in the special season that we will experience His grace in our lives.

In Christ,

Father Chris Frazer